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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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SUBJECT Best Kept Secrets, Part 5

ROD DANIELS: Well, it's a never-ending fight. The KGB tricks an American defense worker into spying for the Soviet Union. The U.S. forces a Soviet diplomat to spy if he wants to defect. The battle on both sides for more agents is fierce.

In the last part of his cover story series "Best Kept Secrets," Rich Hollander says it's impossible to tell who is winning the espionage war.

RICH HOLLANDER: The war for information, the war for loyalty, the war for national security is being fought all over this state in universities where visiting students from Eastern Europe befriend American students, in military installations where the KGB attempts to recruit military personnel, in research facilities where Soviet scientists and engineers try to learn about our technology, in libraries where important information is available, in defense plants throughout the state where Soviet moles may be at work, where employees may be KGB targets, on the streets and sidewalks of Maryland, where each side tries to outmaneuver the other. A complex war where each side wins and loses.

Arkady Shevchenko, for years before his defection from the Soviet Union, a spy for the United States, says the very nature of our society is a handicap.

ARKADY SHEVCHENKO: In a way, in a free society like United States, for the FBI it's a mission impossible.

HOLLANDER: Not so says the person who heads Maryland's FBI office.

MAN: There's an ever-growing number of intelligence officers coming in from Eastern European and Rus -- and from the Soviet Union. But we're doing the job.

HOLLANDER: When it comes to money and manpower, the Soviets may have the upper hand.

SHEVCHENKO: The Soviets have unlimited resources to follow anyone who they suspect or not suspect in the Soviet territory. If they need three, four, five or ten cars to follow one, they can do that.

Unfortunately, the American counterintelligence and the FBI don't have this liberty in this country.

MAN: Marxist-Leninism is a bankrupt soci -- bankrupt ideology. Very few senior people in the Soviet Union believe in Marxist-Leninist theory, but they have to mouth it.

We have something very strong to offer here, and that is what our freedom is, what the Uni -- the strength of the United States.

HOLLANDER: Betrayal, espionage. It is going on right now, right here in Maryland.

The arrest in Montgomery County this week of Navy officer John Walker, who along with his son Michael allegedly passed secrets to the Soviets, is a dramatic example of the very theme of this series: that high-level espionage goes on right here in Maryland.

And Ron, the vast majority of spy missions never make the news.

DANIELS: Rich, first of all, I want to thank you for what I consider, personally, a very intriguing look at spies and all of the inner workings of what happens in a spy network.

And we also want to make sure that we also thank producer Cathy Bryce for her work on this project, and also photojournalist Mac Finney. Congratulations to all of you on this series.